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## **Sen. Cassis achieves 50-percent reduction of healthcare tax penalty; bills now go to governor**

**Lansing** – Legislation sponsored by Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) to reduce Michigan's tax penalty on employer-funded health benefits was overwhelmingly approved by the Michigan Legislature today.

“Today we have achieved a great bi-partisan, bi-cameral victory for workers, businesses and healthcare with the passage of the Cassis Care and Competitiveness package.”

Senate Bills 672 and 673 reduce the Single Business Tax penalty on healthcare by 5 percent in 2004, an additional 15 percent in 2005, another 20 percent in 2006 and 5 percent more in 2007.

This achievement is a result of a yearlong process that included four Senate hearings in Lansing, Novi, Bay City and Grand Rapids, and the support of more than 50 businesses, associations, organizations and individuals.

“Across the state, residents and business owners have told me how much they need this relief,” Cassis said. “This accomplishment represents a new era of economic development in the state of Michigan. The result will make Michigan more competitive, more able to retain and create jobs, and more effective in protecting private healthcare for Michigan employees and their families.”

The bills will now be presented to the Governor for her signature.

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